

## A Christmas Stocking

By Bertha Edmond Ridgeley

CHRISTMAS and the high cost of living do not make a very harmonious combination," observed Mrs. Ralston, in her quiet, patient way.

"I was just thinking of that, mother," replied her married daughter, Eunice Marsh, who sat with her work basket in her lap, her needle threaded with mending yarn, and rounding one of her husband's stockings at the heel.

"There! that is done, and I hope it will pass muster as half respectable pinned up to Aunt Mary's mantle!" Mrs. Ralston sighed, and Eunice did not set any too cheerful. They were lovable, generous souls, and until the past year or two had never known what it was to skip and watch the corners closely. The mother picked up the stocking Eunice had placed on the table.

"Come to think of it, Eunice," she said, "we can do better than that. Just run up to the storeroom. Here is the key. You'll find father's clothes and things as they were when he died."

The last years of John Ralston's life had been full of anxiety and struggle. There was a mortgage on the old homestead, and at one time it seemed a foreboding could not be avoided. Then in some way he secured the money to pay it off, and fortunately it was clear of encumbrance when he died. That was just a month after Eunice married Randall Marsh.

Her heart warmed as she thought of the loyal, whole-hearted man who had come into her life at a critical time. It had been generally supposed that Randall had some little money, for he was industrious and thrifty, but when Mr. Ralston died Randall stepped into his place, practical, hard working and self-sacrificing.

The tears fell as Eunice reached the storeroom, and tried the top of the heavy box she had herself covered, in which her father had been accustomed to store his extra clothing. Randall himself had made the receptacle, and together they had given it to Mr. Ralston on his last birthday. Eunice removed some articles of apparel tenderly and with care, placed them on a chair, and discovered some handkerchiefs and three pairs of stockings rolled up neatly. She took the top one, unfolded it and with satisfaction noted as it unfolded that it was new and white.

"Why, what can this be?" she uttered, as an excited thrill ran through her. It was a new pair of stockings, increased as she picked it up and noted it unfolded and inside a written page and a peculiar looking key. Then with staring eyes, breathless, stirred to the depths of her soul, she read:

"After I am gone see that this letter and key are given to Randall Marsh. It has been a secret he made me promise never to divulge, that he gave me the money to pay off the mortgage. Poor, noble-hearted fellow! He had saved the \$2,000 to build a little home, and gave it freely to benefit us all. Month by month I have saved what I could, and have placed the money in a safety deposit box in the City bank, where there is nearly the amount he gave me."

Eunice with difficulty suppressed a great cry of joy. She could scarcely refrain from rushing downstairs and revealing her marvelous discovery to her mother. As she reflected how much this generous donation would mean to them all, in a transport of happy tears she sobbed forth her love for the worthy helpmate who had so well fulfilled his duty to himself and her family.

Eunice was alive with half-suppressed excitement all that evening. She waited when they had reached Aunt Mary's until her mother and the others had placed their little gifts in the stocking bearing a card with Randall's name. All alone, she kissed the precious envelope and slipped it into the stocking.

"A necktie, gloves and a pen knife. That from aunt. Something always useful. A letter, no! a card of greeting, no! Why, what does this mean?" spoke Randall Marsh, and read it as they all gathered about the fire place, and then he knew. Unselfish man that he was, he actually blushed like a culprit detected at the revelation of a sleeping secret of years.

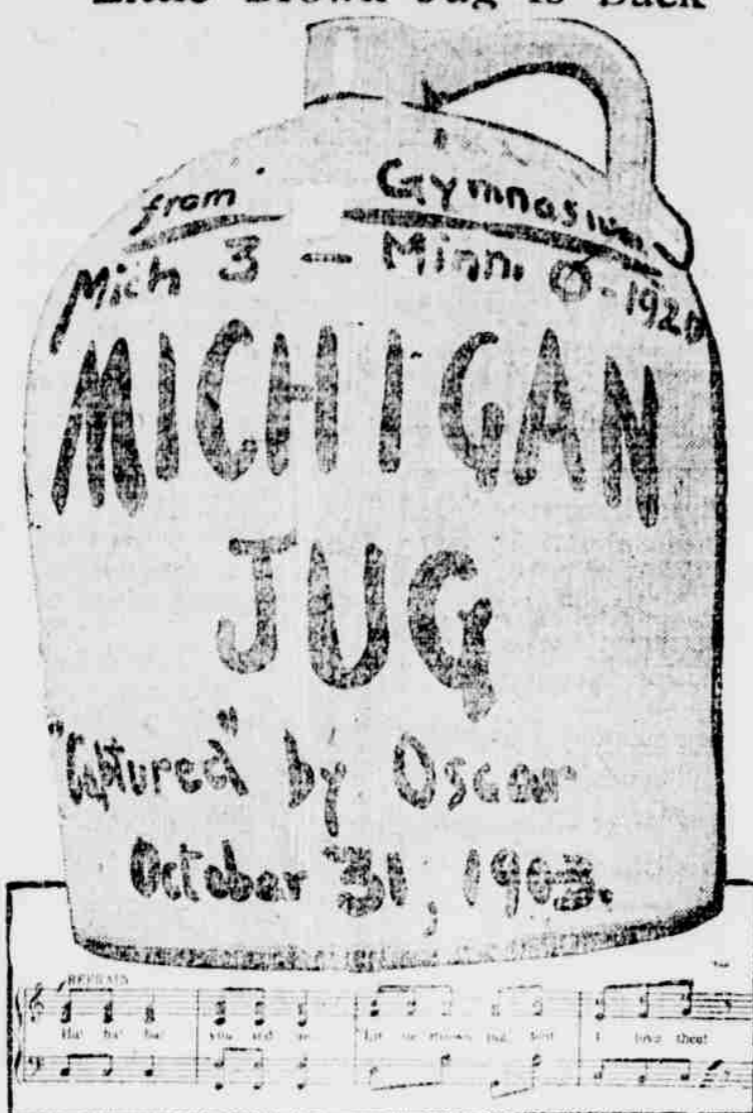
"It means that I have the dearest, most noble husband in the world!" cried Eunice, her arms about him, her lips raining kisses. "Oh, my brave one! my true one! And who in the world today deserves the blessings of Christmas more than you?"

Old Stuff.

When men speak of the weaker sex and the gentle sex, what are they talking about, anyhow? Nobody seems to know.—Los Angeles Times.

Try the Free Trader-Journal Want Ads

## Little Brown Jug Is Back



This historic piece of pottery and beer made two round trips between Ann Arbor and Minneapolis, home of rival football players. The winner of each year's game receives the "Little Brown Jug" as a trophy of honor. The Yachtmen brought it back from Minnesota this fall. Needless to say this jug—whose history dates back to the days of 1903 and Boston—is the most highly prized trophy in the Michigan gym right now.

## Sings While They Dine: His Wife Wants Divorce.

San Francisco, Mrs. Mary Bell has petitioned the superior court to grant her a divorce from Moses Bell.

She charges him with singing when they dined in restaurants and with smoking his pipe when they dined at home.

The couple were married last May.

## Where Was Uncle, Waiting for Train?

Muskegon, Ind.—When Victor Thompson received word that his uncle, Clyde Frick, had been found dead at Sweet Grass, Mont., he went west for the body. The uncle, very much alive, met him at the station. A mistake had been made in the identification of a dead man.

## True Efficiency.

Efficiency is a matter of the head as well as the hands. It can never be a purely mechanical thing, for true efficiency has its origin in careful thought. The man who forms the habit of using his brain is never in danger of becoming a mere machine.

## TAKE 20,615,402 TONS IN YEAR

Shipping Board Ships Carry Nearly Third of United States Foreign Trade

New York—Vessels of the United States shipping board carried 22,379,231 tons of export merchandise and 7,236,168 tons of imports during the fiscal year that ended June 30, according to a statement made public here. The cargoes carried, the report states, constituted thirty per cent of the country's export business and twenty-seven per cent of the imports, the percentage being fixed on the basis of the total foreign commerce of the United States for the fiscal year.

The business of the shipping board was limited through forty-nine American ports. New York ranked first with 232 per cent of the exports, and 365 per cent of the imports, or 279 per cent of the total business. Baltimore and Philadelphia ranked second with ten per cent, and New Orleans third with 7.3 per cent.

## Why?

"How to Live More Than One Hundred Years" is the title of a recent book. But what, we desire to ask, could be the object?—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

## FEW CLAIM MEDALS FOR WAR SERVICE

Washington, Dec. 3.—Victory medals are being applied for so slowly by ex-service men that Major Gen. Harris, the adjutant general of the army, has notified the officers in charge of the distribution to make the utmost effort to reach all who deserve it. It is estimated that 3,757,621 men who served in the army are entitled to the medal, but to date only 373,241, or about 10 per cent of the number, have applied. Applications are coming in at the rate of only 6,800 a day, which is far below the capacity for issue of the working crew in the Philadelphia general supply depot. The quartermaster has put on a large force, and these men are being held at much expense to the government.

"It is no more difficult to make out a form for the Victory medal," announces General Harris, "than it is to fill out a money order blank. This form verifies the recipient's service and his present whereabouts. It will prevent the medals from falling into the wrong hands. The government's gift is a work of art, not a machine, and has intrinsic as well as sentimental value. It cannot be sent out to unverified addresses, any more than Liberty bonds or war insurance checks, many of which have been lost before reaching the addressee, in spite of all possible care."

"The ex-service man has only to apply at the nearest army post or recruiting office in his home town, or through any patriotic society, such as

the American Legion or the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Here he will be shown how to fill out his blank, and if his discharge papers are correct the application is forwarded direct to Philadelphia, and the medal mailed within a week. Hundreds of applications have given wrong addresses, and many medals are returned daily by the post office because the men cannot be located."

There are also special blanks for the next of kin, in order that the relatives may obtain the decorations for those who were killed in action, or who died in line of duty.

## Our "Fortunes."

What we call our fortunes, good or ill, are but the wise dealings and distributions of a wisdom higher, and a kindness greater than our own. I suppose that their meaning is we should learn, by all the uncertainties of our life, even the smallest, how to be brave and steady and temperate and hopeful, whatever comes, because we believe that behind it all there lies a purpose of good, and over it all there watches a providence of blessing.—Henry van Dyke.

Not Greatly Interested. Margaret had accompanied the family to the movies more often than to church. One morning her parents took her to church, and she found it rather dull. Toward the end of the service she looked up sleepily, and in a voice perfectly audible all over the church she called out: "Papa, is this the last reel?"

## Going Down SLUMP—SLUMP

EVERY GROCER GETS A BUMP—HIGH SPOTS GONE. OLD WHEAT—

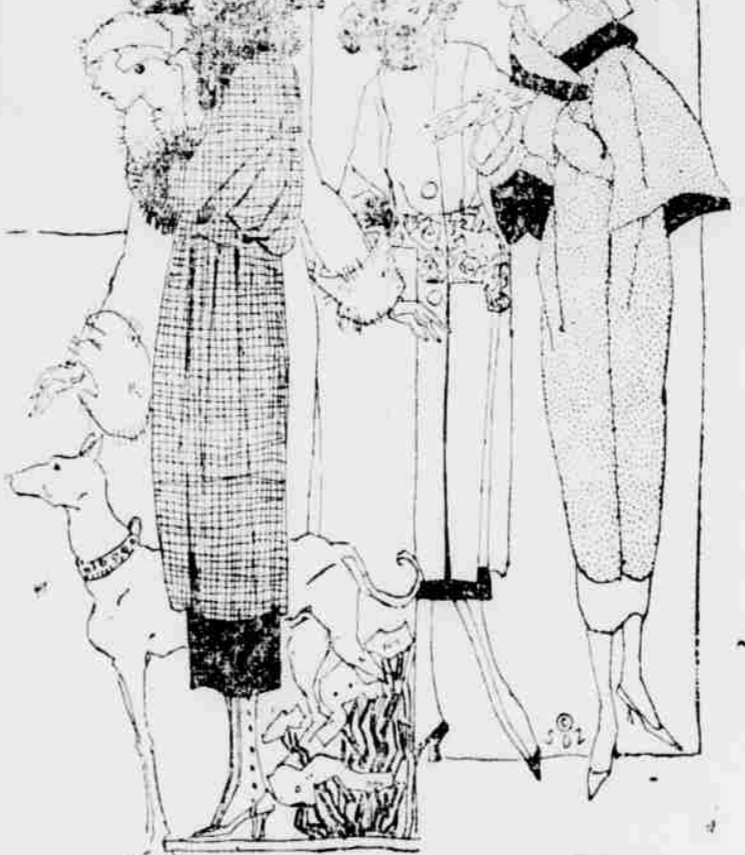
Schminke's Best Patent Flour, 49 lb. sacks	\$2.79
King Quality Flour—finest you ever used	2.89
5 lb. sack fresh Cornmeal	.29
Choice Navy Beans, 4 lbs. for	.29
Choice fine Rice, per lb.	.10
Just tapped, barrel fresh Coconut, lb.	.50
Just tapped, cask Sour Pickles, dozen	.15
Just tapped, cask of Dill Pickles, dozen	.20
Mason jar, jars sweet mixed Pickles	.38
Monarch Chow Chow, per jar	.19
A car choice flaky white Rural Potatoes, sack lots per bu	1.45
100 cans Milk, large size, each 12 cts per doz	1.20
Large cans solid Tomatoes 15c; large cans Sauer Kraut	.12
Large cans Hominy, Peas, Corn	.15
Choice Rio Coffee, some kick, 5 lbs. for	1.00
Peaberry Coffee, has a peculiar richness in flavor, 3 lbs. for	1.00
Finest line fresh fruits and vegetables in the city. Fancy Cauliflower, Iceland Lettuce, Brussels Sprouts, Spinach, White Turnips, Sweet Potatoes, Hubbard Squash.	

Open a new charge account by phoning No 128.

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\$3.98 to \$9.98  
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## SMALLENBERGER CO.

Opposite the Postoffice.

## Proper Ambition.

It is very sad for a man to make himself servant to a thing, his manhood all taken out of him by the hydraulic pressure of excessive business. I should not like to be merely a great doctor, a great lawyer, a great minister, a great politician—I should like to be also something of a man.—Theodore Parker.

## Protects Eyes.

To protect the eyes from an electric light without interfering with the illumination in other directions, a metal shade, to be attached to a lamp with a wire spring, has been patented.

## Sensible Mr. Dubwaite.

"Did you ever come in unexpectedly and find your office boy reclining in your easy chair, with his feet propped up on your desk?" "Oh, yes," replied Mr. Dubwaite. "And what did you do?" "I registered a mental vow that I would quit setting him a bad example."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

## Duty to Posterity.

We should live and labor in our time so that what came to us as seed, may go to the next generation as blossoms, and what came to us as blossom, may go to them as fruit.—Exchange.

## ARE YOU A SUFFERER?

My Best Reference  
I Have Visited Your Town and Adjacent Towns for Twenty Years.

DR. J. N. SHALLENBERGER  
Will be at Ottawa, Ill., at Hotel Ottawa, Wednesday, Dec. 8, 1920.  
One day only—and return every 28 days. Office Hours: 8 a. m. to 6:00 p. m.

I Treat the Following Conditions  
Chronic Diseases of the Nose, and Throat, Bronchial Tubes and Lungs, Indigestion, Dyspepsia, Constipation, Liver Diseases and Stomach and Bowels, Bladder and Urinary Troubles, Neuralgia, Rheumatism, Skin Disorders, Headache, Dropsy, Old Sores, Ulcers, Nervous Diseases, Blood Poison, Female Diseases.

PILES, Fistula, Fissure and Rectal diseases treated without cutting or pain. Without surgical operation or detention from business.

If you have some trouble which is due to excesses, dissipation, bad habits, etc., etc., you should in justice to yourself, your family and your future children, take the proper steps to place yourself in the best possible physical condition. No man should be too modest, nor should he be ashamed to seek medical advice on these private ailments. The duty of the physician is to relieve suffering humanity and the treatment of these troubles is just as legitimate as the treatment of diseases of the stomach, kidney, etc.

Seek proper medical advice at once; for neglect may be fatal to your whole future happiness.

MEN Are you in need of treatment for any of those special diseases and weaknesses that rob men of the pleasure and happiness of life? Are you weak, nervous, despondent? Do you feel yourself slipping, not sick but slowly going back? Do you lack the vim and vigor of former days? Do you have headaches and dizziness? Have you some private disease or weakness, some urinary trouble with burning, scalding frequent urination, discharges? Is your blood diseased? Have you Blood Poison, syphilis—the "Dread of Blood Diseases," skin eruptions, copper colored spots, falling hair, sores, ulcers, pains in the bone, enlarged glands, prostrate gland, sore mouth, sore throat?

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